

I observed the bird for perhaps two hours altogether, in conditions of both full sunlight and overcast skies.

The south-west monsoon (light showers) arrived on June 7 in this area (Hyderabad Dist.), but I cannot say whether this may have had some influence in the occurrence of this western sea-coast bird so far inland.

SHAMSABAD,  
HYDERABAD DISTRICT,  
ANDHRA PRADESH,  
July 8, 1967.

GEORGE F. NEAVOLL

## 6. THE FEMALE OF MOLESWORTH'S TRAGOPAN *TRAGOPAN BLYTHI MOLESWORTHI* BAKER

(With a plate)

Molesworth's Tragopan, *Tragopan blythi molesworthi* Baker, has so far been known from only two specimens, both males. The holotype was taken by Capt. A. L. M. Molesworth at Dangan La (alt. c. 2438 m.), c. 27° 11' N. 92° 1' E., Scherechopka country, south-eastern Bhutan, on 31 March 1914. Ludlow (1944)<sup>1</sup> procured the second specimen from Shingkar (alt. c. 2591 m.), Louri District, eastern Bhutan (c. 64 km. north-west of Dangan La, the type-locality), on 1 April 1936. Its female has so far been unknown.

During a recent ornithological survey of Bhutan undertaken jointly with Dr. Sálím Ali since 1966, I have been able to collect a female Tragopan which clearly belongs to *Tragopan blythi*, but differs from the nominate subspecies in some important details. There can, therefore, be little doubt that my specimen represents *T. b. molesworthi*, and the first known female at that (Plate).

The specimen was taken by me above the Bulfai Pass (alt. c. 2621 m.), c. 27° 14' N. 91° 31' E., Manas Valley, eastern Bhutan, on 30 March 1966. It was shot while skulking in a patch of rhododendron forest with thick undergrowth of various herbs and shrubs, and a few scattered clumps of ringal bamboo. It was a lone example busily feeding at about 8.00 hours when my presence there disturbed it.

This female specimen differs from the females of the nominate subspecies in having the whole upper plumage darker, the blackish marks being larger and deeper coloured, grey-brown markings much deeper grey and less brown, ear coverts subtipped rufous, rufous-centred cheek-

<sup>1</sup> LUDLOW, F. (1944): The birds of south-eastern Tibet. *Ibis* 86: 380-381.

Biswas : Molesworth's Tragopan



Molesworth's Tragopan (*Tragopan blythi molesworthi* Baker). Female.